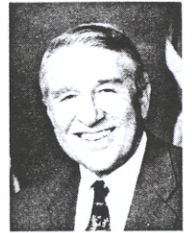




NEWS FROM
Jack Scott

21st SENATE DISTRICT



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**BILL TO SPEED UP PURCHASE OF NEW TEXTBOOKS
PASSES THE SENATE**

Measure will stop school districts for "hoarding" state textbook funds

SACRAMENTO – A measure that will stop school districts from inappropriately "hoarding", or not spending, state funding they receive for textbooks passed the full Senate today. SB 786, by Senator Jack Scott, will stop a practice that currently denies students the opportunity to learn from the new standards-based materials they need to achieve the academic standards now set by the State Board of Education (SBE).

In 1998 the Legislature passed a law to provide a billion dollars in additional textbook money over a four year span. This was in response to the growing crisis -- insufficient and outdated textbooks in our classrooms. While most districts are expeditiously carrying out their responsibilities to provide as many new textbooks aligned to the new standards as they can afford, SB 786 was introduced to make sure *all* districts meet this obligation.

"Our first responsibility is to the students. I do not think it is premature to expect those 1998 textbook dollars to be spent by the summer of 2003," said Scott. "This bill will hold districts that are not doing their job accountable."

Specifically, this bill: 1) requires that each school district that serves pupils in grades K through 12 annually certify to the purchase of standards aligned instructional materials within two years of their adoption by the SBE; 2) requires the Legislative Analyst to evaluate the effectiveness of the purchase deadlines and certification requirements and report on school district compliance by November 1, 2005; and 3) authorizes the SBE to grant extensions for purchase of those instructional materials or textbooks beyond the 2-year period if certain requirements are met.

"The students who have progressed through the system in the meantime will have forever lost an opportunity to learn all they could have from new textbooks. SB 786 will minimize the number of such educational casualties in the future," said Scott.

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